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LB 467

as a clean-up bill of the Nebraska Partnership for the Health and Human Services Act. In the mid-2001 year, Governor Johanns appointed an eight-member advisory council to provide an external overview of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System as it existed after the passage of LB 1044 in 1996. The objectives of the external review were to identify strengths of the system and offer recommendations for improvement. The council issued its report in the fall of 2002. The Nebraska Health and Human Services System, as you know, is composed of three separate but interrelated agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, Health and Human Services Finance and Support, overseen and coordinated by a Policy Cabinet. The Policy Cabinet consists of the three department directors, the state's chief medical officer, if one is appointed, and chaired by a Policy Secretary. The Policy Secretary also chairs a public advisory body to the cabinet called the Partnership Council. Members of the Policy Cabinet and Partnership Council are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by this Legislature. In 1996, the Legislature passed the Nebraska Partnership for Health and Human Services Act, which combined five existing state agencies--the Department of Social Services, Public Institutions, Health, Aging, and the Office of Juvenile Services in the Department of Correctional Services--into three new departments, to create a new system. The redesign was proposed by the Nelson administration, based on the administration's finding that the current system was fragmented and lacked coordination between programs, resulting in, among other things, families with multiple caseworkers, repetitive inspections of Health and Human Services facilities, and inconsistent grant application procedures. The reorganization of the system was presented as a necessary means of achieving both administrative efficiencies and cost savings for the state, and improved services to the public. As you know, Health and Human Services System encompasses about one-third of state employees, and more than one-third of the state's total budget. LB 467 was introduced to make technical and substantive changes to provisions of the Nebraska Partnership for Health and Human Services Act, based on the committee's own recommendations and the Governor's external review. The bill renames the act as the Nebraska Health and Human Services System Act. And Section 5